

CINCINNATI, OHIO
ENQUIRER

M - 188,873

S - 277,813

OCT 30 1965

Senator Young And The CIA

ADMITTEDLY OHIO'S SEN. Stephen M. Young is, at best, not exactly our cup of tea. But he certainly was not at his best when, on returning from a recent trip to Vietnam, he accused the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency of dressing up agents as Communist Viet Cong and sending them out to perpetrate atrocities on innocent Vietnamese peasants.

It is not our purpose to defend the CIA. Although not without faults, the agency performs a useful service and we think it can defend itself against even the onslaughts of Ohio's junior senator.

But we do strongly protest the use by Senator Young of his office to spread and lend credence to what appears to be mere gossip, the dissemination of which could be of considerable propaganda benefit to the enemy.

The senator was quoted on his return to Washington as saying that a CIA official in Southeast Asia had told him a small CIA force, disguised as Viet Cong, had murdered several villagers and raped women.

Even putting aside the initial difficulty of trying to imagine what kind of a disguise would enable a band of American CIA men to pass themselves off to the Vietnamese as Vietnamese, the story is difficult to swallow.

CIA men do not identify themselves as CIA men, even to U. S. senators. In any critical area of the world, there is always gossip among Americans as to who are the CIA men in their midst. But it is a guessing game that only infrequently has a definite answer. Knowledge of the agency's activities is equally restricted and, inevitably, these too become the subject of unsubstantiated rumor. In Senator Young's case, it appears that he bought as fact a particularly vicious example of this sort of thing.

The senator is a critic of U. S. involvement in Southeast Asia. He has a right to his own views. But we feel that as a U. S. senator, he also has a duty to present some proof when making such serious charges against an agency of the government.